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Crónica del Undécimo Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, primero reunido en México en Octubre de 1895, escrita por Enrique de Olavarria y Ferrari, México, 1896. Imprenta y Litografía "La Europea" de Camacho, Calle de Santa Isabel núm. 9.

This *Crónica* contains reports of the daily sessions of the Congress of Americanists, with full notices of the receptions, banquets and excursions, offered by the Mexican Government and the citizens of the capital to their guests. Señor Olavarria's style is diffuse and flowing, and he leaves nothing to the imagination of his readers, whether he describes the Valley of Mexico or sets before them the character and career of President Diaz. An interesting chapter is the ninth, on the Excursion to Popotla and the tree of the *Noche Triste*. This gives the detailed story of the fire which broke out in the great tree May 2, 1872, and burned for sixteen hours before it could be extinguished; but the tree was not killed, and now, after twenty-four years, its trunk and single remaining arm are perennially green and full of vigour. It is now protected by an iron grating.

The papers submitted to the Congress are yet to be published.

The Twelfth Congress is to meet at the Hague.

The sixth volume of the Publications of the University of Pennsylvania, Series in Philology, Literature and Art, is now in preparation. This volume contains:

- a.* The Antiquity of Man in the Delaware Valley.
- b.* Exploration of an Indian Ossuary on the Choptank River, Dorchester Co., Md. (With a description of the Crania discovered by E. D. Cope; and an examination of traces of disease in the bones, by Dr. R. H. Harte.)
- c.* Exploration of Aboriginal Shell Heaps on York River, Maine. By Henry C. Mercer, Curator of the Museum of American Archæology.

These publications are issued through Messrs. Ginn & Co., 9-13 Tremont Place, Boston, Mass., in volumes of 200 or 250 pages, comprising two or more monographs, at \$2 per vol. to subscribers. Each monograph may be obtained separately.

A Naturalist in Mid-Africa, being an Account of a Journey to the Mountains of the Moon and Tanganyika. By G. F. Scott Elliot, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.G.S. London, A. D. Innes & Co., Bedford Street, 1896.

In his preface Mr. Scott Elliot expresses his thanks to the many who have aided him in the preparation of this work by giving shape and form to his MSS. as well as to his illustrations, originally very bad, and by contributions to the scientific matter. His map,

now produced for the first time, corrects some of the inaccuracies retained "in deference to a more recognized authority" in the one constructed from his materials and published in the *Geographical Journal*, Vol. 6, p. 400.

This more recognized authority was Mr. H. M. Stanley, whose necessarily imperfect sketch of the Ruwenzori region was not to be doubted. Mr. Scott Elliot notes some of Stanley's errors:

Mount Gordon Bennett, Mackinnon Peak, and Mount Lamson are not mountains, but quite insignificant hills, if they have any existence at all (*p.* 194).

Stanley's Observation Hill was not noticeable in any way, but it should be on the right-hand bank (*p.* 255).

I spent much time and trouble in trying to discover where on earth the enormous fresh-water sea, discovered and christened the Alexandra Nyanza by Mr. Stanley, could possibly be. This, of course, it is now clear, has no existence whatever; apparently the name is applied to a papyrus fringe on the course of the Kagera proper (*p.* 256).

So much for self-vindication. The author's route was from Mombasa to the northwest, then along the upper shore of the Victoria Nyanza to the country between that and the Albert Edward, thence to the Tanganyika and Lake Nyassa and through Blantyre to Chindi, where he took passage for Zanzibar.

The first stage was across a thorn desert to Nzowi in the well-cultivated Wakamba country, where the climatic conditions begin to be suitable to Europeans, and so continue through the Masai highlands. At Nandi begins the descent to the Victoria Nyanza region, a plateau stretching westward to the base of Ruwenzori and at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

From the observations Mr. Scott Elliot comes to the conclusion that the Victoria lake must at one time have been a hundred feet above its present level. Then, perhaps by the cutting away of the rock at the Ripon Falls, the lake began to sink, and is still falling. The valleys, even at 200 miles from the Victoria, are filled with the rich alluvium that is common in Lower Egypt. This deposit is often 30 feet deep and would produce, with irrigation, enormous crops of cotton, sugar, rice and wheat. So far as has been ascertained, however, the natural productions of Uganda are not of great value, and the Victoria region is poor in dyes and gums, medicines and fibre plants. Iron is the only known mineral.

The climate of Uganda is not unhealthy and the annual rainfall, from eight years' observations at the Missionary Station of Natete, is 47.61 inches.

On the way to the Ruwenzori Mr. Scott Elliot was taken with fever, and made all haste to ascend the mountain. At the height of

7,000 feet he found a temperature not very different from that of England, and English plants, such as the sanicle, the meadow rue, the forget-me-not and St. Johns wort, flowering in the same month as their cousins in Dumfriesshire. He devotes a chapter to the consideration of some of the problems suggested by the presence of these plants on a ridge of Ruwenzori. At 7,000 feet the forest begins; from 9,000 to 11,000 is the bamboo zone, and above that the heather, in a ground of peat moss covered with sphagnum to a depth of 18 inches. Here the heather develops into trees, nearly two feet in diameter and 80 feet high. The snowline of the mountain is at 15,500 feet.

Geologically, Ruwenzori is supposed to have formed a part of the original Victoria region plateau of underlying gneissose rocks, covered by mica schists, with intrusive dykes of lava. Then an elliptic area, now the central cone of the mountain, was elevated. Mr. Scott Elliot thinks he has seen evidence of glaciation in the typical V-shaped valleys.

The Germans find little favour with Mr. Scott Elliot. He accuses them (p. 26) of shooting the Masai on sight, and making the name of the white man odious (p. 158). He himself entered German territory, giving full information of his movements and doing everything in his power to pay for everything. The result was, in his own words, that

the German Government stole my guns (p. 158).

This looks like small business for a great Government; but there is room for doubt, and the following broad statement, on the same page, seems to show that Mr. Scott Elliot is not always in a judicial frame of mind:

In fact, the courteous manner in which the English Government treats others, and the extreme want of courtesy with which Englishmen are treated by the German and French Governments, is almost beyond belief.

None the less, the Germans, as well as the Belgians, are commended for resolute dealing with the Arabs, whose rule, it is declared, involves the moral, mental and physical ruin of every subject native race.

Mr. Scott Elliot devotes a chapter to the Suahili, the half Mohammedan porters and carriers of East Africa.

They are, he says, pure savages, not to be managed without the whip, children in their want of forethought and in cheerfulness. They are wanting in affection, even for each other, though at times they display attachment to their Arab masters. They have great power of endurance, but they lack courage and they show a great deal of stupidity. It is almost hopeless to attempt to Christianise

them. One old man, to whom a Catholic priest had patiently explained the future state of the unredeemed, made the brief reply: "I am an old man, I like to be near the fire."

The race is dying out, with the suppression of slave raiding.

The appendices give lists of altitudes, scientific collections (the botanical specimens not yet named) and articles of export, present and prospective.

There are 49 good illustrations and four maps.

Il Territorio Contestato tra la Venezuela e la Guiana Inglese. Lettera aperta al chiariss^o Signor Comm. Dott. Clinio Silvestri, Console Generale degli Stati Uniti di Venezuela in Italia, Roma. Direzione ed Amministrazione del "Cosmos di Guido Cora," 74 Corso Vittorio Emanuele. 8vo. Torino, 1896.

In this "Open Letter," Prof. Cora makes reply to a printed remonstrance addressed to him by the Venezuelan Consul-General concerning a map of South America, published by Prof. Cora to show the distribution of the Italians in American countries.

The Consul General finds in this map a very serious error in the eastern boundary of Venezuela, and especially in the territory bounded by the *Sea of the Antilles*, the river Orinoco and the river Essequibo; a region which belongs, as he declares, to Venezuela.

According to Prof. Cora, the school map in question bears the date of 1891, and necessarily gives the limits previous to that date. Had there been a later edition of the map, he says, the Consul-General would have found the Venezuelan area considerably reduced on the west, in accordance with the decision rendered, March 16, 1891, by the Queen of Spain as arbitrator between Venezuela and Colombia.*

It excites Prof. Cora's surprise that he alone should be called upon to correct the boundary assigned by him to Venezuela, when his boundary agrees with that drawn in most of the maps now in existence, including those of greatest authority.

He cites the various editions of Stieler's Hand-Atlas, Kiepert's great map of northern tropical America, 1858, and his Hand-Atlas, Vivien de Saint-Martin and Schrader's Atlas Universel, and the Atlas de Géographie Moderne of Schrader, Prudent and Anthoine; to name only, he says, a few German and French cartographers of the first rank.

He fortifies his position by references to the historical record, and declares that the question between himself and the Consul-General is one of appreciation with regard to a still unsettled controversy.

* This decision was in favour of Colombia, and Venezuela declined to abide by it.